

2026 ANNUAL OBESITY CONFERENCE CA/NV-ASMBS

OCTOBER 2-3 #26CNVOC

OMNI RANCHO LAS PALMAS RESORT & SPA



The Infinite Game: Shaping the Future of Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery and Obesity Care

October 2-3, 2026

Omni Rancho Las Palmas Resort & Spa
Palm Springs, California

Hosted By

Chapter President: Kamran Samakar, MD

Program Director: Pearl Ma, MD

FRIDAY • OCTOBER 2, 2026

Welcome Evening

6:00pm-8:00pm

Industry-Sponsored Welcome Dinner Symposium

Morton's Steakhouse
74-880 Country Club Drive
Palm Desert, California 92260
Sponsored by J&J

SATURDAY • OCTOBER 3, 2026

7:30am-8:00am

Registration & Exhibits

8:00am-8:15am

State of the Chapter

Speaker: Kamran Samakar, MD

Moderator: Pearl Ma, MD

SESSION I

The Infinite Game: Learning from the Pioneers

8:15-9:00 AM

Alan Wittgrove Honorary Address

**The Evolution of Revisional Bariatric Surgery:
Lessons from the Past, Direction for the Future**

Speaker: Kelvin Higa, MD

Moderator: Raul Rosenthal, MD

9:00am-9:45am

Keynote Address

Evolution of Duodenal Switch in the Modern Era

Speaker: Michel Gagner, MD

Moderator: Ninh Nguyen, MD

9:45am-10:15am

Exhibitor Break

SESSION II

Global Perspectives & the Future of Care

10:15am-10:37am

Global Perspectives: Adapting to Changing Bariatric Surgery Volumes

Speaker: Ariel Ortiz, MD

Moderator: Brian Smith, MD

10:37am-10:59am

The Role of Bariatric Psychology in Surgical Success: Do We Need Mandatory Preoperative Screening?

Speaker: Kati Duncan, PsyD

Moderator: Katie Chapmon MS, RD

10:59am-11:45am

Keynote Address

The Future of Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery

Speaker: Joe Northup, MD

Moderator: Alan Wittgrove, MD

11:45am-12:00pm

Morning Wrap-Up & Audience Discussion

- Key takeaways from the morning sessions
- Additional audience questions
- Faculty discussion
- Transition to lunch

12:00pm-1:00pm

Lunch Symposium

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1:00pm-1:32pm

SESSION III-Shaping the Future of Comprehensive Obesity Care

Debate

Who Leads/Owns the Bariatric Patient Long-Term?
Moderator: David Suh, MD

Obesity Medicine/Primary Care Perspective
Alaina Vidmar, MD

Bariatric Surgeon Perspective
Victoria Lyo, MD

Expert Panel & Audience Discussion

Sherif Aly, MD
Shushmita Ahmed, MD
Aileen Murphy, DO

1:32pm-2:04pm

Debate

Is Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery Dying?
Moderator: Douglas Krahn, MD

Position: "Yes"

Sergey Lyass, MD

Position: "No" — Opportunities and Growth in Comprehensive Obesity Care

Amy Yetasook, MD

Expert Panel & Audience Discussion

Subhash Patil, MD
Sunil Bhoyrul, MD
Tom Hirai, MD
Punam Patel, MD

2:04pm-2:10pm

Session III Wrap-Up & Audience Discussion

2:10pm-2:40pm

Exhibitor Break

2:40pm- 3:40pm

SESSION IV - What Would I Do Differently? Lessons Learned from Complex Clinical Videos

Moderator: Mona Misra, MD

Expert Panel

Yijun Chen, MD
Stanley Rogers, MD
Kulmeet Sandhu, MD

2:40pm-2:55pm

CASE ONE

Unexpected Intraoperative Challenge
Christian Perez, MD

2:55pm-3:05pm

FELLOW CASE

Challenging Case & Lessons Learned
Luis Felipe Almeida Okida, MD

3:05pm-3:20pm

CASE TWO

Complication Management & Salvage Strategy
Michaela Esquivel, MD

3:20pm-3:55pm

CASE TWO

Revision Gone Wrong: What Would I Do Differently?
Helmuth Billy, MD

SESSION V

Advocacy, Access & Relevance

3:35pm-4:10pm

**Advocacy Challenges in Bariatric Surgery:
Protecting Access to Comprehensive Obesity Care**
Moderator: Lauren Hawley, MD, DABOM

California Advocacy Update
Speaker: Ajay Upadhyay, MD

Nevada Advocacy Update
Speaker: Morgan Pomeranz, MD

Advocacy Panel Discussion
Panelists

Gregg Jossart, MD
Cyrus Moon, MD
Chris Taglia, MD

4:10pm-4:15pm

Closing Remarks

Speaker: Kamran Samakar, MD

- Recognition of Faculty & Sponsors
- Announcement of Bingo Card Winner
- Adjourn